

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:ASHANKLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 114561

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 114561 ACTION VIENTIANE INFO BANGKOK

MANILA DATED 17 MAY 75

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 114561

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, LA

SUBJECT: E AND E: US PRESENCE IN LAOS

REF: A. STATE 109657; B. VIENTIANE 3347; C. VIENTIANE 3326

D. VIENTIANE 3323; E. VIENTIANE 3194; F. VIENTIANE 3345

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

MANILA FOR EALG

1. WE HAVE NOTED AND APPROVED YOUR ACTIONS REGARDING
CHANGING SITUATION IN LAOS WHICH HAS NOW ASSUMED SERIOUS
PROPORTIONS WITH RESPECT TO AMERICANS. IN ADDITION TO OUR
PREVIOUS APPROVAL OF YOUR SUGGESTIONS CONTAINED REF E FOR
A TRAVEL FREEZE AND EARLY DEPARTURE OF PERSONNEL ON LEAVE
AND TRANSFER, WE NOW BELIEVE THAT ADDITIONAL MEASURES ARE
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NECESSARY. YOU ARE THEREFORE INSTRUCTED TO BEGIN AN

ACCELERATED SIZEABLE THINNING OUT OF US PERSONNEL TO INCLUDE ALL DEPENDENTS AND NON-ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL. YOU MIGHT BEGIN WITH THOSE PERSONS EVACUATED FROM THE PROVINCES AND PERSONNEL LIKELY TO BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY CUTBACKS IN BOTH MAP AND AID PROGRAMS. ALL REMAINING PERSONNEL SHOULD BE CONSOLIDATED AT A CENTRALIZED LOCATION.

2. FURTHER, DUE TO OPERATING DIFFICULTIES IN THAILAND AND OUR INCREASINGLY STRAINED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE THAI GOVERNMENT, YOUR E AND E PLAN SHOULD BE ADJUSTED TO INSURE THAT EVERY PRECAUTION WILL BE TAKEN TO AVOID THE USE OF MILITARY ASSETS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF PERSONNEL FROM VIENTIANE. INSTEAD, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD PLAN FOR CIVILIAN AIR (OR SURFACE) EVACUATION TO UDORN, FROM WHENCE EVACUEES WOULD BE FLOWN DIRECTLY TO CLARK.

3. IN YOUR LATEST REPORT ON POTENTIAL EVACUEES, WE NOTED A LARGE NUMBER OF LAO (700 FOR VIENTIANE ALONE). IN VIEW DECISION NOT TO CONSIDER MILITARY EVACUATION OPTION, WE MUST REDUCE THIS. WE WILL APPRECIATE NOTIFICATION OF CATEGORIES AND OTHER MORE PRECISE INFORMATION.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE A PROMPT RESPONSE GIVING YOUR PROPOSED PLANS FOR CARRYING OUT ABOVE INSTRUCTIONS.

5. WITH RESPECT TO YOUR CONVERSATIONS WITH SOUVANNA PHOUMA AND PHOUMI, YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS SOUVANNA AND PHOUMI FOR THE SAFE PROMPT RETURN OF THE THREE AMERICANS AT SAVANNAKHET. YOU SHOULD NOT STRESS LINK BETWEEN THEIR RELEASE AND POSSIBLE AID CUTOFF, BUT RATHER CONTINUE TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THERE IS NO BASIS WHATSOEVER FOR HOLDING THESE PEOPLE AND THAT FAILURE TO RELEASE THEM CANNOT BUT SERIOUSLY AFFECT US.LAO RELATIONS.

6. WE ALSO AWAIT YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE SCALING DOWN OF AID PROGRAMS, WHICH WILL ALSO BE QUICKER THAN FORESEEN DUE DEPARTURES AID PERSONNEL. ALSO INDICATE YOUR LATEST NEWS ON FURTHER REDUCING REMAINING MILITARY AID PROGRAM ON BASIS OF LATEST DEVELOPMENTS.

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